



EC Pharmacy Access Program: Information for Pharmacists

Massachusetts (MA) law allows pharmacists to be specially trained to dispense a wider range of more effective and affordable Emergency Contraception (EC) products to women without a prescription under a standing order from a physician. EC is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy up to 5 days after unprotected sex but is most effective when used as soon as possible. EC is not the abortion pill (mifepristone or RU-486). You can help women back up their birth control with EC!

Why should pharmacists become specially trained to provide pharmacy access to EC if it's available over-the-counter (OTC)?

EC remains difficult for many women to access. Less than half of surveyed pharmacies stock EC on store shelves, and many pharmacies that do stock it in a glass case or anti-theft package that must be unlocked by a store employee. Becoming specially-trained means that:

- ✓ You can help women who can't otherwise purchase EC OTC because of age, ID, or prescription requirements.
- ✓ You can help women access their preferred EC method, whether it is a more affordable generic or prescription method covered by insurance that provides them cost-savings. EC provided under a standing order constitutes a prescription for MassHealth members and many other insured women in need.
- ✓ You can help **all** women directly access EC on demand at the pharmacy.

Signing up to participate is as easy as 1-2-3!

1 Complete an accredited training program

- Online training is available through Northeastern University at www.rxce.neu.edu; click the "Home Study (Online) Programs" link and set up a free account to enroll.

2 Obtain a standing order from a physician

- Obtain a model standing order online at www.mass.gov/emergencycontraception.
- Find a physician to sign the order, or contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Family Planning Program for help locating one at ec-pharmacy@state.ma.us.

3 Submit the order with the Board of Registration in Pharmacy and register your pharmacy online

- Send a copy of your signed standing order by email to ec-pharmacy@state.ma.us to file your order and list your pharmacy access program online at www.mass.gov/emergencycontraception.

You are ready to dispense!

How can I find out more about the Pharmacy Access Program in Massachusetts?

- Visit www.mass.gov/emergencycontraception or
- Contact the **MDPH Family Planning Program** at ec-pharmacy@state.ma.us or **617-624-6060**

